

PAPERS READ.

NOTES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *CORIS* FROM THE NEW
HEBRIDES.

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CORIS VARIEGATA. sp. nov.

B. VI. ; D. 9/12 ; A. 3/12 ; V. 1/5 ; P. 13 ; C. 14 : L. lat. 63 ;
L. tr.

Length of head $3\frac{2}{3}$, of caudal fin 6, height of body $4\frac{1}{3}$ in the total length. Diameter of eye $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the head, equal to that of the snout, eyes half a diameter apart. Jaws equal ; maxilla extends to the vertical from the front margin of the eye. The two front teeth in either jaw elongate ; those behind them grow gradually smaller towards the back ; no posterior canine. The dorsal rays are somewhat longer than the spines, which increase in length from the front ; the pectoral is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the length of the head ; the ventral $\frac{1}{2}$ of the same ; caudal rounded. *Colors*, anterior parts to the end of the pectoral rays pale yellowish-brown studded with numerous round dark reddish-brown, almost black spots largest on the opercles ; the posterior part of the body uniform chestnut, the division being sharply marked and oblique. First eight dorsal spines light-colored with small chesnut spots ; a large black pale-edged ocellus, which does not reach the margin of

the fin, between the eighth spine and second ray ; outside the pale edging are indications of a dark ring, which is more pronounced behind ; a second ocellus covers the basal half of the four last rays ; the outer half of the soft dorsal is dusky with a pale median longitudinal line, the free tips of each ray being white ; the inner half is pale with two series of chesnut spots : the anal has also white tips to the rays ; the outer part is dusky, gradually fading into a pale basal band ; a single series of spots on its anterior two-thirds near the base : pectorals and ventrals immaculate : caudal with a broad black basal band, and a large central triangular spot of the same color, concave in front ; this spot is broadly edged with white except at its lower anterior angle where it touches the margin of the fin.

The specimen measures $2\frac{2}{3}$ inches and forms part of a small collection brought from Aneiteum by Captain Braithwaite. Its register number is B. 9,566.